

Mississippi State University
Notice of Proposed Sole Source Purchase

Mississippi State University anticipates purchasing the item(s) listed below as a sole source purchase. Anyone objecting to this purchase shall follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Commodity or commodities to be purchased (make, model, description):

MTS Model 653.01B High Temperature Furnace

MTS Model 632.53F-14 High Temperature Axial Extensometer; Metric

Water Cooling Kit

All to be installed on MSU/CAVS 800 series MTS axial fatigue load frame with 100 kN capacity.

2. Explanation of the need to be fulfilled by this item(s) and why it is the only one that can meet the specific needs of the department:

The compatibility of this furnace and accessories with the MTS fatigue machine and controller is absolutely necessary for generating reliable fatigue data at elevated temperature. MTS Systems Corporation provides the technology for reliable high temperature fatigue testing which are compatible to MTS fatigue machines.

3. Name of company/individual selling the item and why that source is the only possible source that can provide the required item(s):

MTS Systems Corporation; All the items listed above need to communicate and be controlled by the MTS digital controllers for test control, data acquisition, and test automation.

4. Estimated cost of item(s) and an explanation why the amount to be expended is considered reasonable:

Total cost \$29,525.00

Various options were reviewed to find the most cost effective way to generate reliable fatigue data at elevated temperature such as Environmental Chamber and High Temperature Furnace. The Environmental Chamber turned to be \$39,217.50 and it also required an upgrade to Grips for another \$39,000. Therefore, the High Temperature Furnace and associated accessories are more cost effective. Educational discount has been also applied for all above numbers.

5. Explanation of the efforts taken by the department to determine this is the only source and the efforts used to obtain the best possible price:

Considering the fact that the requested items need to be compatible with MTS fatigue machine, MTS is the sole provider of these items. As stated in the letter by MTS: "The high temperature furnace, mounting hardware, high temperature extensometer, and water cooling kit are all designed and manufactured by MTS Systems Corporation. These items are not available for purchase through other manufactures or distributors in the US and North America."

Any person or entity that objects and proposes that the commodity listed is not sole source and can be provided by another person or entity shall submit a written notice to:

Don Buffum, CPPO
Director of Procurement & Contracts
dbuffum@procurement.msstate.edu

Subject line must read "Sole Source Objection"

The notice shall contain a detailed explanation of why the commodity is not a sole source procurement. Appropriate documentation shall also be submitted if applicable.

If after a review of the submitted notice and documents, MSU determines that the commodity in the proposed sole source request can be provided by another person or entity, then MSU will withdraw the sole source request publication from the procurement portal website and submit the procurement of the commodity to an advertised competitive bid or selection process.

If MSU determines after review that there is only one (1) source for the required commodity, then MSU will appeal to the Public Procurement Review Board. MSU will have the burden of proving that the commodity is only provided by one (1) source.